

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3493

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, XH, NATO

SUBJECT: ECONADS: TOPIC FOR 1978 ECONOMIC COLLOQUIUM

REF: USNATO 2485, B) USNATO 2621(NOTAL)

1. AT MAY 5 ECONADS MEETING ONLY UK AND GERMAN REPS SPOKE TO CHAIRMAN'S SUGGESTIONS FOR 1978 COLLOQUIUM TOPIC. UK REP (HULSE) HAD RECEIVED PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ONLY FROM THE DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE AND HENCE HIS COMMENTS WERE TENTATIVE. THE DEI CONSIDERED THAT "PROSPECTS FOR GROWTH IN THE USSR FOR 1985" WAS THE MOST PROMISING OF THE TOPICS SUGGESTED AND FELT THAT ENERGY SHOULD BE DEALT WITH AS ONE OF ITS SUB-TOPICS. THEY FELT THE SAME SUB-TOPIC SHOULD ALSO APPEAR IF THE FIRST OF THE CHAIRMAN'S SUGGESTIONS, "THE EVOLUTION OF EAST-WEST TRADE TO 1985", WAS CHOSEN.

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2. THE GERMAN REP(DAASE) SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES AGREED WITH THE UK (ALTHOUGH IN INVERSE ORDER) AND ALSO FELT THAT "REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE USSR" WOULD BE A DESIRABLE TOPIC. IF THE EAST-WEST TRADE TOPIC WERE CHOSEN THEY FELT THAT THERE SHOULD BE CAREFUL COVERAGE OF TRADE FINANCING WITH A FOCUS ON INDEBTEDNESS INCLUDING THE

ROLE OF INVISIBLES. THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES ALSO SUGGESTED THAT AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO GET AWAY FROM USING THE SAME PANEL MEMBERS AT THE COLLOQUIUM YEAR AFTER YEAR. IN THE CURRENT CASE, IF TRADE WERE CHOSEN AS THE MAIN TOPIC THEY WOULD SUGGEST THAT AN EFFORT BE MADE TO RECRUIT PARTICIPANTS FROM THE BANKING COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE THE BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS IN BASLE.

3. CHAIRMAN BILLY REGRETTED THAT THE FRENCH VERSION OF THE DIRECTORATE'S MEMO (ED/EC/77/41) WAS NOT YET AVAILABLE BUT EXPECTED IT WOULD BE CIRCULATED SHORTLY. THIS QUESTION WILL APPEAR ON THE MAY 18 ECONADS MEETING AGENDA. BILLY HOPED FOR A FINAL DECISION BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE COLLOQUIUM TOPIC BY MAY 26, SO PLANNING COULD GO FORWARD.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE IN TIME FOR MAY 18 MEETING. BENNETT

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